

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A toothbrush comprising:
a brush head having first and second ends and peripheral edge regions extending therebetween;
bristle clusters protruding from a cleaning surface of the brush head; and
a depression disposed in the surface and surrounding at least one bristle cluster, the depression having a bottom into which the bristle cluster penetrates and in which the bristle cluster is fixed.

20. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 19, wherein the depression is adapted to substantially correspond to a cross section of the bristle cluster.

21. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 20, wherein the depression and the cross section of the bristle cluster are substantially rectangular, the depression defining a pair of side walls of major and minor extent.

22. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 21, further comprising a handle connected to the first end of the brush head, the handle and brush head defining a longitudinal axis, wherein the side walls have a major extent disposed transversely to the longitudinal axis.

23. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 22, wherein the depressions extend along the peripheral edge regions.

24. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 23, wherein the depressions are tapered off toward an outer edge of the brush head.

25. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 23, further comprising a bristle cluster extending from the brush head and not surrounded by a depression between adjacent depressions having bristle clusters protruding therefrom.

26. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 25, further comprising a bristle cluster having a substantially rectangular cross section, the longer extent are disposed transverse to the longitudinal axis.

27. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 25, wherein the depressions with the bristle clusters protruding therefrom are arranged along the peripheral edge regions.

28. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 27, further comprising four depressions each having one bristle cluster protruding therefrom arranged along the peripheral edge regions.

29. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 27, wherein the bristle clusters protruding from the depressions have a greater length than an adjacent bristle cluster.

30. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 27, wherein the brush head comprises a slot extending along the longitudinal axis and dividing the brush head into two halves.

31. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 21, wherein the brush head comprises a round brush head configured for oscillating rotational movement.

32. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 31, further comprising a plurality of depressions extending a short distance from an outer edge of the brush head.

33. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 32, wherein the depressions tapered off outwardly along a radial direction.

34. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 33, further comprising a bristle cluster not surrounded by a depression and protruding between two adjacent depressions with bristle clusters protruding therefrom.

35. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 34, wherein at least one bristle cluster has a rectangular cross section and define a pair of side walls of major and minor extent, the walls of major extent disposed in a circumferential direction of the brush head and at the same distance from the edge.

36. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 31, wherein the bristle clusters protruding from the depressions have a greater length than those of the adjacent bristle clusters.

37. (New) The toothbrush according to claim 19 wherein the depressions are substantially annular.

38. (New) A toothbrush comprising:
a brush head having first and second ends and peripheral edge regions extending therebetween;
bristle clusters protruding from a cleaning surface of the brush head; and

a depression disposed in the surface and surrounding at least one bristle cluster, the depression having a bottom into which the bristle cluster penetrates and in which the bristle cluster is fixed,

wherein the brush head comprises a slot extending along the longitudinal axis and dividing the brush head into two halves.

39. (New) A method of manufacturing a brush head of a toothbrush, the method comprising:

injection molding a plastic mass around the free ends of a plurality of bristle cluster to fixedly attach the clusters to the brush head; and

during molding, forming a depression proximate the fixed end of at least one bristle cluster, thereby increasing a free bending length of the bristle cluster.